

Fort Wayne

Free Things To Do

Free Things to Do Any Time of Year in Fort Wayne, Indiana

Looking for an affordable weekend getaway with the family in the Midwest? Fort Wayne, Indiana is a perfect destination offering many free activities you can enjoy with your family any time of year!

1. Browse the newest exhibit at the **Fort Wayne Museum of Art** with free admission on Thursdays from 5:00 to 8:00 PM.
2. Uncover great local food at many of Fort Wayne's farmers markets. Explore VisitFortWayne.com/farmersmarkets for specific times.
3. Fort Wayne is a creative canvas, bursting with public art around every corner! Use the free **Fort Wayne Public Art Trail** to find more than 150 murals and sculptures around the area.
4. Browse the nation's largest public **genealogy collection** at the Allen County Public Library Downtown.
5. Hike, Bike, and Paddle Fort Wayne's land and water trails with the **Fort Wayne Outdoor Pass!**
6. Experience the breathtaking view from the Tree Canopy Trail at **Promenade Park** in downtown Fort Wayne! While you're there, take a walk on the historic Wells Street Bridge or enjoy the relaxing swings.
7. See what's new at **The Landing**. This historic corner of downtown was the city's first major hub of activity in the 1800s.
8. Explore the **Allen County Public Library** – one of the best in the nation!
9. Soak up history at the **Old Fort**; the grounds are open to visitors every day with special programming monthly.
10. If you're a history enthusiast, check out the **Allen County Historic Sites pass!** Use the free mobile pass to visit 90 historic sites and landmarks around Allen County.
11. Tour **nature preserves and parks** including Little River Wetlands, Eagle Marsh, many of the ACRES Land Trust preserves, Lindenwood Nature Preserve, and Salomon Farm Park.
12. Visit **Electric Works** – the 39-acre former GE campus, transforming into a new hub of activity. Explore the Union Street Market food hall vendors, enjoy yard games out in the beer garden, and browse the farmers market on Saturdays.
13. Explore Fort Wayne's 120 miles of **trails**. Highlights include the 18 miles of hilly Aboite Trails, the Rivergreenway, the Indiana Native Tree Walk, the historic 5.5-mile Towpath Trail, and the Pufferbelly rail-to-trail.
14. Pay your respects to the fallen at the **Vietnam Memorial Wall** in Fort Wayne – an 80% size replica of the original Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington D.C. Located at the Veteran's National Memorial Shrine and Museum at 2122 O'Day Road.
15. Set out for a tour of an **Amish community** in Grabill, Indiana.
16. Visit the breathtaking **Allen County Courthouse*** (cell phones and cameras not admitted.) Group tours are available by appointment Monday – Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM or you can take the self-guided tour. *Call ahead to confirm tours are planned for the date of your visit.
17. Pick up a **Downtown Walking Tour** map and explore the city's modern heart combined with Fort Wayne history; stop by the Visitors Center for guides to ten historic Fort Wayne districts; or pick up a map and hit the ARCH Heritage Trail downtown.
18. Walk through **Lindenwood Cemetery** and visit the graves of many of Fort Wayne's founders (don't forget to do some grave rubbings.)
19. Let the kids explore at many of our favorite playgrounds including **Taylor's Dream** and our 53 other playgrounds.
20. Venture through the stacks at **Hyde Brothers Booksellers**.
21. Explore some of **Fort Wayne's parks** including Swinney or Shoaff parks for some frisbee golf, and public gardens at Lakeside, Foster, and Freimann Square.
22. Browse **antiques** at any one of Fort Wayne's local antique shops.
23. Visit **Parkview Field** – open to the public on days when there are no games or events! Walk the concourse or bring your lunch to enjoy with a great view of the ballpark.
24. Window shop at many of Fort Wayne's **boutique shops**.
25. Visit **Creative Women of the World** to learn about Fort Wayne's global impact on women in poverty.
26. Browse works of art at Fort Wayne's favorite **galleries** including Artlink Contemporary Gallery, Orchard Gallery, Northside Galleries, and the University of Saint Francis' five galleries.
27. Explore the **Rolland Center for Lincoln Research** at the Allen County Public Library.
28. Enjoy **local fine art** alongside your morning coffee at Old Crown Coffee Roasters, Mocha Lounge, Firefly Coffee House, Fortezza Coffee, and Conjure Coffee.
29. Tour the **Hamilton Sculpture Garden**, a tribute garden to Emerine Hamilton, near the banks of the St. Marys River in Headwaters Park.
30. Enjoy shopping and a free indoor play area at **Glenbrook Square**.
31. Take in the views of a beautiful limestone quarry at the **Hanson Observation Deck**. Open to the public, and will provide you with an amazing view of the quarry.
32. Stroll the sacred at the **Diocesan Museum**.
33. Pick up a map for a historical **Scavenger Hunt** downtown at the Visitors Center.



Late Summer and Fall

1. Experience Fort Wayne's vibrant arts community during **Taste of the Arts** on August 24! This year's festival will feature in-person experiences around downtown at Arts Campus Fort Wayne, The Landing, and Promenade Park. Celebrate the rich diversity of arts and culture through live performances, kids' activities, visual art, and amazing local foods.
2. Stroll the Amish crafts and goodies at the **Grabill Country Fair**, September 5 - 7.
3. Check out **Be A Tourist In Your Own Hometown** on Sunday, September 8.
4. Delight your taste buds and celebrate the folk legend at **Johnny Appleseed Festival**, September 21 and 22.
5. Grab your basket and head to a Fort Wayne **apple orchard or pumpkin patch** to pick your favorite variety!
6. Bring your own **kayak** and explore any of Fort Wayne's three rivers: the St. Joseph, the St. Marys, and the Maumee. Or, rent a kayak, canoe, paddleboard, or bike from Fort Wayne Outfitters to explore land and water trails for a great price.
7. Take your family on a fall adventure and get ready to eat, discover, and explore the **Fort Wayne Apple Trail!**
8. Roam downtown Fort Wayne as a zombie during the annual **Zombie Walk and Fright Night** event on October 19.
9. Stroll through Fort Wayne's favorite trails, and explore all of the beautiful **fall foliage** in the area!
10. Bring your racquets and visit the public **tennis courts** around the city at Kreager Park, Foster Park, Swinney Park, Lakeside Park, or one of our other great parks. Or, check out Fort Wayne's pickleball courts!
11. Visit **Salomon Farm Park** to see a working farm in action. Visit the goats, donkeys, sheep, and other farm animals, walk or bike the 1.8-mile trail around the property, enjoy bird-watching, or discover your new favorite photo spot! In August, walk through the sunflower fields at sunset for the ideal photo op.



Winter

1. Explore the downtown holiday lights displays! Or take it a step further and check in at Fort Wayne's most iconic holiday displays to earn prizes using the free **Holiday Lights Challenge** pass.
2. Hop in the car and use our map to discover the **most dazzling Christmas houses** in Fort Wayne! You can even VOTE for your favorite house for a chance to win your own Fort Wayne prize package.
3. Celebrate the season with a day of indoor and outdoor fun during **Winterval**. Watch ice carvers at work, shop the market, and find special events at attractions around downtown!
4. Visit the live reindeer at **Jefferson Pointe** every Saturday between Thanksgiving and Christmas, 5-7pm!
5. Enjoy winter on The Landing with live music, food and drinks, ice carvings, fire dancing, and more at **Weather the Fort**.
6. Visit **The Old Fort** for historical reenactments throughout the winter, including Nouvelle Annee 1744 - Empire on the Eve of Conflict (Jan. 27) and 1812 Officer and NCO Training Garrison (Feb. 17).
7. Embrace the snow and conquer these Fort Wayne **sledding hills**.

Digital Passes

While you're exploring, check out our free digital passes for your phone.

- The **Savings Pass** offers over \$200 in deals and discounts.
- The **Outdoor Pass** lets you explore miles of land and water trails, check in, and earn prizes.
- The **Allen County Historic Sites Pass** gives you access to the places that built our legacy.
- The **Public Art Trail** is your guide to Fort Wayne's creative canvas.
- Find all the brilliant seasonal displays with the **Holiday Lights Challenge**

[VisitFortWayne.com/Explore](https://www.visitfortwayne.com/explore)